



The City of Kansas City, Mo.
Neighborhood and Community Services Department
"We're on it, because nothing can stop dedication."



The Neighborhood Navigator

A Quarterly Publication of the Neighborhood Services Division

September 2008

AUTUMN

For man, autumn is a time of harvest, of gathering together. For nature, it is a time of sowing, of scattering abroad. ~Edwin Way Teale

From the Director's Desk

I would like to thank the residents and neighborhood leaders of Kansas City for your continued hard work in keeping our City one of the most livable communities in the country. Kansas City has managed to address the crisis of this present economic down turn with fortitude and compassion. We have faced these challenges both at the national and at the local level. These challenges are issues that range from the recent housing mortgage foreclosures, to public safety; and including the city's ability to deliver the basic services at an acceptable level. City government is earnestly working to address these issues.

Perhaps one of the most critical features of our recovery will be the development of partners in our recovery and growth efforts. Strengthening our partnership with the neighborhood groups will be the key to creating a resourceful solution to further address our challenges. A commitment from all of us will be instrumental in the City's recovery and growth. Staying in touch with the public during this recovery and into the growth of our city is essential to a healthy community. Because many of the services sought by the public come from resident initiated contact, creating a positive experience and an atmosphere of cooperation with the public will be at the heart of this partnership. Some may call this the "Kansas City Spirit".

Although we are diligent in our efforts to develop a plan that will provide adequate housing for all our citizens, we are confronted with the recent accelerated rate of mortgage foreclosures and existing inventory of vacant properties. The housing plan we propose should begin the process to include creative solutions that will address affordable housing, work force housing and market rate housing. The city's Housing committee, chaired by Councilwoman Cindy Circo, and Public Safety and Neighborhoods committee, chaired by Councilwoman Cathy Jolly, are mutually developing a strategy to focus on neighborhood development.

The City's CAN centers have been in existence for over fifteen years and are a viable tool in our efforts to reduce crime. CAN centers address crime and neighborhood issues and improves relations between police and the communities they serve. Our staff continues to expand services in public safety, more recently the City has expanded the Community Action Network (CAN) center operations. Although Northland Neighborhoods, Inc. has been performing CAN type services in the past and operated as such, it is now officially recognized as a CAN center. In addition we are continuing to seek a new home for the Westside CAN center to solidify their presence in the west side area. We have also expanded services at the Eastside CAN center and will soon be opening a CAN center in the southeast region.

I want you to know that the Mayor, City Council and City Manager are committed to strengthening basic services for neighborhoods. They have taken a leadership role in creating solutions as we begin to address neighborhood issues. This will benefit the city and improve quality of life for generations to come. City employees will continue to work hard to assure services are delivered. Targeting and leveraging resources coupled with community partnering will be key to creating a thriving community. It will require leadership, dedication and commitment from everyone.

Sincerely,

Les Washington

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Fall Leaf and Brush Collection

Central City (Core) Routes

Monday	November 3 and December 1
Tuesday	November 4 and December 2
Wednesday	November 5 and December 3
Thursday	November 6 and December 4
Friday	November 7 and December 5

East and Southland Routes

Monday	November 10 and December 8
Tuesday	November 12 and December 9
Wednesday	November 13 and December 10
Thursday	November 14 and December 11
Friday	November 15 and December 12

Northland Routes

Monday	November 17 and December 15
Tuesday	November 18 and December 16
Wednesday	November 19 and December 17
Thursday	November 20 and December 18
Friday	November 21 and December 19



Leaves, leaves and more leaves; they will be everywhere! You will rake them, jump in them, rake them some more...then what will you do with all those leaves? Put them in the trash? No way. State law bans yard waste—leaves, grass clippings, garden debris, and brush from our landfills.

Compost or mulch them? Now, that's a good idea! Composting is nature's way of turning yard "waste" into a valuable soil conditioner. Organic material, in this case leaves breaks down over time. Composting is a method to speed up the break down process.

Kansas City collect leaves at curbside and take them to a city composting site, but you can compost them yourselves. It's best to chop your leaves up with a hoe, shovel, or mower (you may need an adult's help). This will help them decompose more quickly. Compost improves soil structure, holds in moisture and plant nutrients, and promotes strong, healthy root systems for plant growth. It can be mixed into garden soil or lawn soil before planting or seeding.

You can also use leaves as mulch. Spread autumn leaves over your garden and around the bases of bushes, trees, and perennials. Leaves are rich in carbon, phosphorus, and potassium--all essential nutrients needed by plants. During the winter, leaves used as mulch, minimizes the alternate freezing and thawing of the soil which often damages plant roots.

Let's get busy raking and putting those leaves to good use this fall, recycle them back into your garden and yard.

(reprint from <http://dnr.wi.gov>)

Bulky Item Collection Changes

Effective September 1, 2008, large item collection services will change to an appointment-based system.






- ✦ Call the Action Center at **311** or (816) 513-1313 to schedule an appointment.
- ✦ Appointments must be made at least 48 hours in advance, and will correspond with your usual trash/recycling collection day.
 - Areas of the city north of the Missouri River may schedule appointments on the third collection day of the month.
 - Areas of the city between the Missouri River and 63rd Street may schedule appointments on the first or fourth collection day of the month.
 - Areas of the city south of 63rd Street may schedule appointments on the second collection day of the month.
- ✦ Collections will not be made without an appointment.
- ✦ Up to 15 items that meet the guidelines for large item collection (appliances, furniture, plumbing and lumber materials, etc) will be picked up; consult the full list at <http://www.kcmo.org/pubworks.nsf/web/bulkyitem2004> for more details.
- ✦ Items should be placed at the curb no later than 7 a.m. of the day of collection (but no earlier than 3 p.m. the previous day).

If you have questions, please contact the Action Center at 311 or by e-mail at actioncenter@kcmo.org.

Leaves and Brush Drop-Off Site Price Structure

Rules

- ◇ The 5 free sack limit is available once per weekend.
- ◇ Plastic bags must be emptied and taken with you.
- ◇ Residents are allowed two truck loads of debris to be disposed at the facility at no charge for one calendar year. A truckload is considered debris at bed level, the equivalent of three cubic yards.
- ◇ Identification in the form of a valid Missouri Drivers License or Identification Card must be presented and must match the address the debris was derived from. If an ID does not match the debris address, an exception form must be attained from the 23rd Floor of City Hall located at 414 E. 12th Street, M-F, 8-4:30.
- ◇ Bundles of brush will be charged as a load, not per bundle.
- ◇ No Grass. No Trash. Entire load is subject to rejection.
- ◇ The above fee structure applies to Kansas City, Missouri residents.

	No charge for the First 5 sacks \$1 for each sack over 5
	\$10 minimum
	\$10 minimum for below bed level \$15 minimum for bed level or above
	\$10 minimum OR \$4.50 per cubic yard
	\$10 minimum OR \$4.50 per cubic yard

COMMUNITY

Questions? Please contact the Action Center by dialing 311 or (816) 513-1313.

It's Back-to-School Time!

KEEP KIDS ALIVE DRIVE

25® is an educational fundraiser with community impact to make neighborhoods safer for children and all pedestrians and bicyclist. Many communities mobilize around **KEEP KIDS ALIVE DRIVE**

25® to engage motorists, pedestrians, and cyclists in creating safer roadways so that school children can safely navigate their way to and from school. For more information visit <http://www.keepkidsalivedrive25.org>

Slow down, pay attention, and drive smart. Arrive alive!

The Missouri Department of Transportation has program funding for **Safe Routes To School** to increase the safety of children in grades Kindergarten through eighth grade who walk, bike and drive to school. For more information contact Todd Messenger at (573) 751-7643 or e-mail him at Todd.Messenger@modot.mo.gov



Are You a Registered Voter?

Don't forget to vote Tuesday, November 4, 2008.

Because 2008 is a federal election year, you'll be voting to elect a president and vice-president, all members of the U.S. House of Representatives, as well as one-third of the U.S. Senate. But there's usually more on the ballot. You will be voting for a governor and the state legislature and/or other local issues.

If you want a voice in the democratic process, you'll need to register to vote. If you're not a registered voter, and you do not vote, you're letting other people make decisions about your education, your health care, and your right to privacy.

**YOUR VOTE IS YOUR VOICE.
BE HEARD.**

Source <http://registertovote.org>

INFORMATION

Block Watch Training Offered Across City


The Neighborhood Services Division of the Neighborhood and Community Services Department is following up on our May 3, 2008 training with a two-hour training for block watch and neighborhood crime watch groups. This training is available to any resident of Kansas City, Mo., **free of charge!** The training is based on part of the Neighborhood Watch Toolkit put out by the National Sheriff's Association in conjunction with the USA On Watch initiative; materials have been modified and expanded to make it more relevant to the specific needs and characteristics of Kansas City, Missouri. It covers the basics of organization and history behind block watch, as well as a section on recognizing and reporting suspicious persons and activities.

Date	Time	Location
Thursday Sept. 11	6:30-8:30 p.m.	Southeast Public Library 6242 Swope Parkway
Thursday Oct. 9	6:30-8:30 p.m.	East Patrol Division 5301 E. 27 th St.
Saturday Oct. 25	10 a.m. – noon	Hillcrest Community Center 10401 Hillcrest Road
Thursday Nov. 6	6:30-8:30 p.m.	Westside Community Center (<i>in English and Spanish</i>) 2050 W. Pennway
Thursday Nov. 13	6:30-8:30 p.m.	Rockhurst University Community Center 5401 Troost Ave.

Additional training dates may be added in other locations.



Registered neighborhood groups that have three or more members complete this training (or have already attended a similar training) may qualify for **free Neighborhood Watch road signs** for their group's use, while supplies last. These 18"x24" signs provide a visible representation to all visitors and neighbors of your group's efforts to deter crime in your area. Inactive groups may have their signs removed in the future, at our office's discretion.

Several sessions have been held already; approximately 300 people have  attended various trainings since the beginning of May. The Neighborhood Services Division can also assist larger neighborhoods in starting up (or restarting) block contacts within their organization, or providing ongoing training and advanced techniques in crime watch to established groups.

Pre-registration for these training sessions is recommended but not required, so that space can be assured. For more information or to register, contact the Neighborhood Services Division, (816) 513-3200 or e-mail solutions_ncsd@kcmo.org.

Community Interaction Officers Build Trust in Kansas City

Providing effective community policing has always depended on officers showing the human face behind the uniform. This is particularly true for those serving as part of the Kansas City Police Department's Community Interaction Officers (CIO).

A CIO's job is to be a liaison between the Police Department and the citizens of Kansas City. They may target specific areas where criminal activity has been reported or observed. This proactive unit is responsible for suppressing street crime and gang activity, and for providing information on these activities to patrol officers.

Revitalization in Kansas City cannot happen in isolation. High levels of community involvement are essential to the success of public safety. The people of Kansas City are urged to participate in their communities, understand the diverse challenges facing the community on many levels, and finally to take pride in the improvements and ensure that they are sustained in the long-term.

Each CIO is a Kansas City Police Officer, who lives in Kansas City and shares the people's hopes and frustrations. They are the neighborhoods liaisons within the community and engage individual residents, as well as groups, in dialogue at ground level.

The duties of the Community Interaction Officer include:

- ⊕ Presenting crime prevention programs that are aimed at stopping crime before it occurs. Crime prevention is one of the best, yet often over looked, methods at eliminating the opportunities criminals look for when they commit their offenses.
- ⊕ Teaching personal safety designed to increase protection against crime. There are programs designed for neighborhood residents and business employees.
- ⊕ Developing Block Watch programs in neighborhoods.
- ⊕ Developing Neighborhood Watch programs.
- ⊕ Performing free residential and business security surveys.
- ⊕ Sending out monthly crime statistics to neighborhood associations and business organizations.
- ⊕ Completing the monthly schedule of neighborhood and business meetings. If you wish to have a district officer attend your meeting please contact the division that patrols your community.
- ⊕ Fingerprinting children with Identification Kits and teaches the "Danger Stranger Program" to youth.
- ⊕ Maintaining a crime prevention booth at functions such as the Home Show, Sports Show, Remodeling and Decorating Shows.

Become involved in your community. Join and attend your neighborhood and business organization meetings.

Central Patrol, James Schriever at 759-6313 or james_schriever@kcpd.org

East Patrol, David De La Mare at 432-8506 or ddelamare@kcpd.org

Metro Patrol, John Trainor at 349-6428 or jtrainor@kcpd.org

North Patrol, Daniel Watts at 437-6230 or dwatts@kcpd.org

South Patrol, Mike Hammer at 672-2828 or MHammer@kcpd.org

Shoal Creek Patrol, Markus Smith at 413-3440 or Markus.Smith@kcpd.org



What You Need to Know about Compact Fluorescent Light Bulbs

Why should people use Compact Fluorescent Light Bulbs (CFLs)?

Switching from traditional incandescent light bulbs to CFLs is an effective, simple change everyone in America can make right now. Making this change will help to use less electricity at home and prevent greenhouse gas emissions that lead to global climate change. Lighting accounts for close to 20 percent of the average home's electric bill. CFLs use up to 75 percent less electricity than incandescent light bulbs, last up to 10 times longer, cost little up front, and provide a quick return on investment. If every home in America replaced just one incandescent light bulb with a CFL, in one year it would save enough energy to light more than 3 million homes. That would prevent the release of greenhouse gas emissions equal to that of about 800,000 cars.



Do CFLs contain mercury?

CFLs contain a very small amount of mercury sealed within the glass tubing – an average of 4 milligrams – about the amount that would cover the tip of a ballpoint pen. By comparison, older thermometers contain about 500 milligrams of mercury – an amount equal to the mercury in 125 CFLs. Mercury is an essential part of CFLs; it allows the bulb to be an efficient light source. No mercury is released when the bulbs are intact (not broken) or in use. Most makers of light bulbs have reduced mercury in their fluorescent lighting products. Thanks to technology advances and a commitment from members of the National Electrical Manufacturers Association, the average mercury content in CFLs has dropped at least 20 percent in the past year. Some manufacturers have even made further reductions, dropping mercury content to 1.4 – 2.5 milligrams per light bulb.

What precautions should I take when using CFLs in my home?

CFLs are made of glass and can break if dropped or roughly handled. Be careful when removing the bulb from its packaging, installing it, or replacing it. Always screw and unscrew the light bulb by its base (not the glass), and never forcefully twist the CFL into a light socket. If a CFL breaks in your home, Sweep up—don't vacuum—all of the glass fragments and fine particles. Used CFLs should be disposed of properly.

What should I do with a CFL when it burns out?

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) recommends that consumers take advantage of Kansas City's recycling options for compact fluorescent light bulbs (listed below). The EPA is working with CFL manufacturers and major U.S. retailers to expand recycling and disposal options. If you put used or broken CFLs in the garbage, please seal the bulb in two plastic bags and put it into the outside trash, or other protected outside location, for the next normal trash collection. Never send a fluorescent light bulb or any other mercury-containing product to an incinerator.

CFLs are recyclable at any of the following locations:

1. Metro North Community Recycling Center, Hwy. 169 & Barry Road
2. Deramus Community Recycling Center, 4707 Deramus (off of Front Street)
3. 3 Trails/Bannister Community Recycling Center, 91st & Hillcrest Road
4. *The mid-town recycling center is currently closed.*
5. As of June 2008, **any Home Depot store**

To learn more go to <http://www.energystar.com>

Be Prepared! Before the Storm Strikes



Article from
<http://www.weather.gov>

At Home and Work

Primary concerns are loss of heat, power and telephone service and a shortage of supplies if storm conditions continue for more than a day. Have available:

- * Flashlight and extra batteries.
- * Battery-powered NOAA Weather Radio and portable radio to receive emergency information. These may be your only links to the outside.
- * Extra food and water. Have high energy food, such as dried fruit, nuts and granola bars, and food requiring no cooking or refrigeration.
- * Extra medicine and baby items.
- * First-aid supplies.
- * Heating fuel. Refuel before you are empty. Fuel carriers may not reach you for days after a winter storm.
- * Emergency heat source: fireplace, wood stove, space heater.
 - * Use properly to prevent a fire.
 - * Ventilate properly.
- * Fire extinguisher, smoke alarm.
 - * Test smoke alarms once a month to ensure they work properly.
- * Make sure pets have plenty of food, water and shelter.

SAFETY

In Vehicles

- * Plan your travel and check the latest weather reports to avoid the storm!
- * Fully check and winterize your vehicle before the winter season begins.
- * Carry a WINTER STORM SURVIVAL KIT:
 - * Mobile phone, charger, batteries
 - * Blankets/sleeping bags
 - * Flashlight with extra batteries
 - * First-aid kit
 - * Knife
 - * High-calorie, non-perishable food
 - * Extra clothing to keep dry
 - * Large empty can to use as emergency toilet. Tissues and paper towels for sanitary purposes
 - * Small can and waterproof matches to melt snow for drinking water
 - * Sack of sand or cat litter for traction
 - * Shovel
 - * Windshield scraper and brush
 - * Tool kit
 - * Tow rope
 - * Battery booster cables
 - * Water container
 - * Compass and road maps.
- * Keep your gas tank near full to avoid ice in the tank and fuel lines.
- * Avoid traveling alone.
- * Let someone know your timetable.

Lend a Hand! Celebrate National Public Lands Day at Swope Park

Do you appreciate the beauty, green spaces and the opportunity to reconnect with nature that the public lands right here in our metro area provide us? If so, Bridging the Gap invites you to join us on Saturday, September 27 to celebrate National Public Lands Day!



National Public Lands Day is an annual hands-on volunteer event focused on improving and enhancing the public lands we all enjoy - America's parks and other public lands, federal, state and local. Last year 110,000 volunteers all across the nation built trails and bridges, planted trees and plants, and removed trash and invasive plants. In Kansas City, Bridging the Gap (BTG) and its affiliates Heartland Tree Alliance (HTA), Kansas City Wild Lands (KCWL) and Keep Kansas City Beautiful (KKCB) worked with 400 volunteers at Shawnee Mission Park to clean up litter, remove woody invasive plants and provide tree care.

This year, BTG, HTA, KCWL and KKCB hope to bring some powerful volunteer energy and passion to assist Kansas City, Missouri Parks and Recreation with improving Swope Park, one of our region's best parks. This year's event takes place from 9 AM to noon on Saturday, September 27. Volunteers will sign up for one of three projects that day -- picking up litter, removing invasive honeysuckle, or planting trees throughout the park.

We hope you will join us for this wonderful hands-on effort to celebrate our public lands. Pre-registration is required to volunteer. Contact Laura O'Brien at 816-561-1061, ext. 109 or lobrien@bridgingthegap.org for more information or to sign up.

ENVIRONMENT



The City of Kansas City, MO
Neighborhood and Community
Services Department

Neighborhood Services Division

City Hall, 414 East 12th Street, Fourth Floor,
west side, Kansas City, MO 64106
Office Hours: Monday-Friday, 9:00 am– 5:00 pm

Email: Solutions_NCSD@kcmo.org

Fax: (816) 513-3201

Neighborhood Services Division staff:

Deletta Dean, Division Manager, 816-513-3220,
deletta_dean@kcmo.org

David Reynolds, Community Safety Coordinator, 816-513-3235,
david_reynolds@kcmo.org

Larry Washington, Community Liaison, 816-513-3205,
lawrence_washington@kcmo.org

Venessa Huskey Wates, Community Liaison, 816-513-3019,
venessa_wates@kcmo.org

TaWana Woodard, Community Liaison, 816-513-3229,
tawana_woodard@kcmo.org

People often say that, in a democracy, decisions are made by a majority of the people. Of course, that is not true. Decisions are made by a majority of those who make themselves heard and who vote - a very different thing. ~Walter H. Judd



Call the 3-1-1 Action Center to report pot holes, missed trash, street light out, malfunction traffic signals, water main breaks and to nominate your “good neighbors”. You can also fill out a service request online at <http://www.kcmo.org/action>.



9-1-1 is the phone number for police, fire, and medical emergencies; everyone seems to know that by now. But what you may not know is what *constitutes* an emergency, and what doesn't.

- If it will make **any** difference how fast help gets there, don't hesitate to call 9-1-1! A crime in progress or a dangerous situation always calls for the fastest possible response.
- Different types of emergency calls will receive different prioritization, depending on what the risk is to people or property. Don't panic if the dispatcher is asking you lots of questions; they will often have started routing someone your way and then continue to pass on information while they talk to you.



Do you have what it takes to volunteer? Invest your time with UNITED WAY'S Ready to Serve Volunteer Program.

A nationwide volunteer program, RSVP invites you to use your life experience and skills to answer the call of your neighbors in need. Giving anywhere from four to 40 hours per week, RSVP volunteers help solve serious problems in the community.

For more information please visit <http://uwgkc.org> or call Betsy Phillips at 816-559-4668.



Know what's below.
Call before you dig.

Building a deck? Planting a tree? Installing a mailbox? 811 is the new number you should call before you begin any digging project.

811 was created to help protect you from unintentionally hitting underground utility lines while working on digging projects. Every digging job – even small projects like planting trees or shrubs.

If you hit an underground utility line while digging, you can harm yourself or those around you, disrupt service, and potentially be responsible for fines and repair costs. Visit <http://www.call811.com/> for more information on this new service.